

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the following paragraphs with the following rewritten paragraphs.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 5 at lines 8 and 15 with the following paragraphs, respectively:

Step 3: PCR analysis according to the method described in Ward *et al.* (supra), in which a universal primer Y<sub>2</sub> (5'-CCCAC TGCTG CCTCC CGTAG GAGT-3')(SEQ ID NO: 8) and a species-specific primer rham (5'-TGCAT CTTGA TTAA TTTTG-3') (SEQ ID NO: 9) were used in the reaction such that a major product of 290 bp will be produced when the chromosomal DNA of *L. rhamnosus* appears in the reaction mixture; and

Step 4: PCR analysis according to the method described in Alander *et al.* (supra), in which a pair of species-specific primers, rham (as indicated in Step 3) and rham2 (5'-CCGTC AATTC CTTTG AGTTT-3')(SEQ ID NO: 10), will amplify a specific product of 863 bp in the presence of *L. rhamnosus* DNA.

On page 16, on line 2, after "Table 2", please add the following:

--(SEQ ID NOS 1-7, respectively, in order of appearance)--.